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more nearly related than naturalists have supposed. We trust palæontologists will be on the lookout for these fossils in our Coal Measures.

AGE OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA.*—In his "Principles of Geology," Sir Charles Lyell objected to Gen. Humphrey's view in his "Report on the Mississippi River, p. 99," "that this river is flowing through it [the delta region] in a channel belonging to a geological epoch antecedent to the present," stating that the bed of the river might belong to the delta formation. Prof. Hilgard, however, from a reëxamination of the borings made at the artesian well in New Orleans, states that the strata are of marine origin, containing numerous shells of probably quaternary age, so that at that time the mouth of the present river was an estuary. "A river doubtless emptied into the great estuary during the Champlain period of slow depression, but it was not the Mississippi river of to-day, which excavated its bed, partially into these very strata, and acquired its identity during the terrace epoch of elevation." The absence of drift wood, or its debris, "which meets the eye in every microscopic examination of the Mississippi delta deposits," is a "capital objection to the delta-deposit character of these strata."

PEABODY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ARCHÆOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY.† —Few people are aware of the value and interest of the collections brought together in this unique museum. Besides the collections already purchased in Europe and previously noticed in this journal, the well known Clement collection of remains from the Swiss Lake dwellings has been lately added.

"It contains, in all, eight hundred and sixty-five specimens. Of these, six hundred and eighty-seven, assigned to the age of stone, are chiefly from localities near Concise and St. Aubin, and were mostly collected by Dr. Clement himself. Of the remains of animals, wild or domesticated, there are those of the ox, hog, sheep, goat, dog, deer, cat, fox, lynx, bear, weasel and squirrel. Among the implements of stone are spear and arrow points, borers, chisels, axes and other kinds of cutting instruments. Many of the stone tools are still retained in their sockets made of the antler of

*Report on the Geological Age of the Mississippi Delta. By Prof. E. W. Hilgard to Gen. A. A. Humphreys. Washington, 1870. 8vo, pp. 16.

†Third Annual Report of the Trustees of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology. Boston, 1870. 8vo, pp. 15.

the deer, and a few of the axes are provided with handles restored after the original patterns, these last having been, in almost every instance, too much decomposed for preservation. There are one hundred and seventy-eight objects belonging to the Age of Bronze, consisting of fragments of pottery, various implements of bronze, such as axes, spear and arrow points, sword blades, fish hooks, pins of various dimensions, pendants and other personal ornaments."

Besides these have been added the collection of the Boston Marine Society, the Thoreau collection, made chiefly about Concord, Mass., a collection of about a hundred objects of stone and pottery from Nicaragua, and a vast collection of Alaskan objects, mostly the work of coast Indians, known as Thlinkets, or more commonly as Kalooshes. "Nearly all the carvings in bone, horn and wood are of the most elaborate and skilfully wrought patterns." These carvings are of unusual interest in connection with the pre-historic carvings by the Reindeer Folk of the caves of France, of which there are specimens in this museum. Indeed, we now have in this country a remarkably full series of the pre-historic remains of Europe, and with the magnificent series of American remains, within the last two or three years placed on exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution, we have nearly as good materials as in Europe for the study of pre-historic man.

Prof. Wyman gives a brief account of his explorations in Florida, especially among the shell heaps. Among the bones, some of the tibiae "were very much flattened from side to side, as has been observed to be the case with some from other parts of the United States, and in the Old World, from the caves of Dordogne and Gibraltar."

PEABODY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.*—The second and third annual reports contain an account of the dedication of the Museum in 1869. In an appendix to the reports of the Director, is a note by Mr. Hyatt on a cuttlefish (*Rossia palpebrosa* Owen?) found at Manchester, Mass., where this species has long been used for bait by fishermen. It has not before been met with except in the Arctic regions. The appendix also contains a "Catalogue of Batrachia and Reptilia obtained by J. A. McNeil in Nicaragua," in which Prof. Cope describes as new to science, a lizard, *Tretioscin-*

* Second and Third Annual Reports of the Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science, for the years 1869 and 1870. Salem, 1871. Svo, pp. 109.